

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS SNAR, AR
SUBJECT US-ARGENTINE BINATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMISSION

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE INCREASED SERIOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE GOA IN THE AREA OF COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL NARCOTICS COUNCIL (CONATON) A POLICY LEVEL GROUP COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SIX DIFFERENT MINISTRIES, HAS SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING EXECUTIVE ORDERS BARRING THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES AND MARIJUANA. IT HAS ALSO OBTAINED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER IMPLEMENTING A PREVIOUSLY LEGISLATED BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF COCA LEAVES. ALSO, THE BUENOS AIRES DISTRICT OFFICE OF DEA HAS A VERY CLOSE ADVISORY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CONATON.

2. BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER, VICE ADMIRAL BARDI, FOLLOWED BY WORKING SESSIONS BETWEEN THE DEA SAIC AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CONATON, HAVE RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO FORMALLY REESTABLISH THE US-ARGENTINA BINATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMISSION. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION,
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WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972, WAS TOO LARGE AND UNWIELDY. DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING ALL OF THE MEMBERS TOGETHER FOR MEETINGS BROUGHT ABOUT ITS DEMISE. THE NEW COMMISSION WILL BE CO CHAIRED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND THE PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTER AND WILL HAVE SIX OTHER MEMBERS, THREE FROM THE US MISSION AND THREE GOA MEMBERS.

3. A CEREMONY FORMALL REINSTATING THE BINATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 16, 1978. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT SUCH TOPICS AS IMPROVED COORDINATION OF ARGENTINAS NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORT THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT, OR AT LEAST A NATIONAL OFFICE FOR COORDINATION OF NARCOTIC LAW ENFORCEMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED. SUCH A MOVE WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE US-ARGENTINE COOPERATIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT.
CASTRO

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